United Nations A/C.1/64/1

General Assembly

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Sixty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 96 (k)
General and complete disarmament: Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

Note verbale dated 7 July 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Office for Disarmament Affairs

The Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and has the honour to transmit herewith a summary of the outcome of the International Seminar on National Implementation of Non-proliferation Obligations: the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons as an Example of Effective Assistance in National Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which took place in Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 22 to 23 June 2009 (see annex).

In that context, the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina would like to share this information with all Member States of the First Committee of the General Assembly.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 7 July 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Office for Disarmament Affairs

International Seminar on National Implementation of Non-proliferation Obligations: the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons as an Example of Effective Assistance in National Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention

Concluding plenary session — seminar outcome

1. Implementing the requirements to prevent, and as may be needed manage the consequences of, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and related materials, equipment and technologies is a complex undertaking. States are called upon to take a range of actions under international regimes and treaties, Security Council resolutions and other arrangements. Such steps may include, for example, the enactment of legislation and the adoption of regulatory and administrative implementation measures, the development of capacity in the form of infrastructure, expertise, procedures and resource allocation, and the commitment to ensure that these measures will be applied in a sustainable manner.

2. This seminar has looked at the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) as examples for how these processes can be managed and implemented successfully. At the same time, there were enlightening discussions about similar efforts by other organizations that assist countries in developing national implementation capacities in other areas of WMD non-proliferation.

3. At the national level, this calls for a holistic approach in the formulation of policies and strategies, and effective coordination between the different actors involved. This is not only a matter of intra-governmental coordination (which is essential, if sometimes difficult), but also of outreach to and involvement of other stakeholders, including industry, academia and civic society.

4. At the regional level, cooperation between countries is essential so as to ensure that the measures adopted by one country match those adopted by its neighbours; that the potential for regional synergism of non-proliferation systems is exploited to the full and that no implementation gaps are left exposed. In the context of the Western Balkans region, the issue of effective implementation of WMD non-proliferation objectives and policies also relates to stabilization and association agreements with the European Union.

5. At the international level, a multitude of actors (States; the United Nations and its institutions and specialized agencies; treaty-based organizations such as OPCW and ISU; other intergovernmental organizations; international organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross; as well as non-governmental organizations such as VERTIC or sipri) are active in promoting the implementation of non-proliferation goals. A multitude of actors are offering support in the adoption of non-proliferation measures to States seeking advice and help. In addition, a productive dialogue has evolved between these international and national bodies and representatives of academia (in the form of international science unions and

academies, for example) and industry (in the form of trade associations and even individual companies).

6. A pertinent example is OPCW, who after the First Review Conference developed and implemented its Action Plan to foster national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. These efforts are continuing also after the Second Review Conference, so as to ensure full and effective implementation of all CWC requirements by all States Parties. Furthermore, the steps taken by the OPCW and other international agencies in response to the terror attacks against the United States of America in 2001 illustrate that international organizations can, within their mandates and based on their technical competencies, contribute effectively to mitigating the threats of WMD being acquired and used by non-State actors.

7. Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) and related subsequent resolutions have further developed the scope of State responsibility with regard to preventing, deterring and managing the consequences of the threats of WMD terrorism. They also reminded States of the urgency of adopting measures to implement the various international instruments aimed at countering the threat of terrorism, as well as their obligations under the existing multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation regimes. They furthermore reiterated the responsibilities of international organizations to contribute to preventing WMD acquisition and use by non-State actors.

8. This wide range of initiatives and actors calls for close coordination and effective cooperation: a move away from the all-too-familiar "patchwork approach" driven by institutional mandates and agendas. It calls instead for a more integrated, holistic and competency-based approach towards WMD non-proliferation. That such integrated and coordinated approaches can work, despite legal, structural, institutional and political constraints, has been shown in other areas of international action, for example in the field of humanitarian assistance.

9. At the national level, a holistic and integrated approach to WMD non-proliferation will be essential in particular for countries with limited resources and capacity. Assistance offered by external actors, however well-meaning, will only in the long run be effective if properly coordinated and well-tailored to the actual needs. Otherwise, there is the risk of institutional overload, confusion and perhaps even loss of priority and overall direction.

10. At this seminar, we have learned a lot about the activities undertaken by OPCW as well as other organizations to assist States with meeting their obligations in the field of WMD non-proliferation. We have also learned a lot about the efforts undertaken by Bosnia and Herzegovina and other States in the region to put into place effective measures to counter WMD proliferation attempts. Much work has already been done and good results have already been accomplished. But more remains yet to be done.

11. During the discussions, a proposal was brought forward for a project that is intended to address these issues in the context of the Western Balkans region. That project would attempt to develop a more integrated, holistic approach towards WMD non-proliferation implementation, working initially with Bosnia and Herzegovina as a pilot country but developing methodologies and approaches in and for a wider regional context. Specific measures to develop a coherent, effective and sustainable national strategy to counter WMD proliferation, in line with

international obligations, would be developed and implemented in partnership with all the organizations and agencies that are working towards effective non-proliferation implementation in their respective fields of responsibility and competence, as a pilot project. At the same time, countries of the region would be involved closely in a parallel, fully transparent, process of discussion, information exchange and experience-sharing. The project would help to identify and share "best practices" of implementing WMD non-proliferation objectives and policies, and thus contribute to regional cooperation. Such a project would at the same time help international agencies to better coordinate their implementation support/assistance activities.

12. This proposed project could be a tangible outcome of the discussions over the past two days of work — a project that resonates with the needs of the host country and that may find the support of other countries in the region as well as the different actors on the international scene that carry responsibilities in the field of WMD non-proliferation.

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General Assembly

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First Committee

Allocation of agenda items to the First Committee

Letter dated 18 September 2009 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the First Committee

I have the honour to inform you of the decisions taken by the General Assembly at its 2nd plenary meeting of the sixty-fourth session, on 18 September 2009, pertaining to the allocation of items to the First Committee.

I wish to draw your attention to the relevant parts of sections III and IV of the report of the General Committee (A/64/250) concerning the agenda of the Main Committees.

May I also draw your attention to the recommendations on the organization of the session contained in section II of the same report. Those recommendations were also approved by the General Assembly at its 2nd plenary meeting.

(*Signed*) Ali Abdussalam **Treki**

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Allocation of items to the First Committee

1. Election of the officers of the Main Committees. [item 5]

G. Disarmament

2. Reduction of military budgets: [item 86]
   (a) Reduction of military budgets;
   (b) Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures.
3. Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. [item 87]
4. African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty. [item 88]
5. Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification. [item 89]
6. Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. [item 90]
7. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security. [item 91]
8. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. [item 92]
9. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. [item 93]
10. Prevention of an arms race in outer space. [item 94]
11. Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament. [item 95]
12. General and complete disarmament: [item 96]
    (a) Notification of nuclear tests;
    (b) Follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
    (c) Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty);
    (d) Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes;
    (e) Preventing the acquisition by terrorists of radioactive materials and sources;
    (f) Regional disarmament;
    (g) Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;
    (h) Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context;

(i) Nuclear disarmament;

(j) Reducing nuclear danger;

(k) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;

(l) Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*;

(m) Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation;

(n) Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control;

(o) Relationship between disarmament and development;

(p) Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments;

(q) Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction;

(r) Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus;

(s) The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation;

(t) Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas;

(u) Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

(v) Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities;

(w) Transparency in armaments;

(x) The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;

(y) Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

(z) Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms;

(aa) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

(bb) United Nations conference to identify appropriate ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament.

13. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: [item 97]

(a) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(b) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons;

(c) United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament;

(d) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;

(e) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

(f) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa.

14. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session: [item 98]

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

(b) Report of the Disarmament Commission.

15. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. [item 99]

16. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. [item 100]

17. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region. [item 101]

18. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. [item 102]

19. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. [item 103]

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

20. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly. [item 118]

21. Programme planning. [item 133]

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General Assembly

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Sixty-fourth session
First Committee

Programme of work and timetable of the First Committee for 2009

Programme meeting	*Dates*	*Number of meetings*
Meeting for the organization of work	Thursday, 1 October	1
General debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items[a]	Monday, 5 October, to Monday, 12 October	6
Closure of the list of speakers for the general debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items	Tuesday, 6 October, at 6 p.m.	
Thematic discussion on item subjects and introdaction and consideration of all draft resolutions submitted under agenda items, including:	Tuesday, 13 October, to Monday, 26 October	11
(a) Exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on follow-up of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee at previous sessions/presentation of reports		
(b) Exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials		
(c) Panel discussions and exchanges with independent experts[b]		

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Programme/meeting	*Dates*	*Number of meetings*
Deadline for submission of draft resolutions under all agenda items	Thursday, 15 October, at 12 noon	
Action on all draft resolutions submitted under agenda items	Tuesday, 27 October, to Tuesday, 3 November	6

[a] A rolling list of speakers was open one month in advance of the beginning of the session. Delegations are encouraged to limit their statements to a maximum of 10 minutes, and statements on behalf of a group of countries should not exceed 15 minutes. The list would give priority to high-level representatives and should be regularly shared with the Committee so as to increase transparency.

[b] Wide civil society participation is encouraged.

Annex

Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee)

Week	*Monday*	*Tuesday*	*Wednesday*	*Thursday*	*Friday*
28 September-2 October	28 September	29 September	30 September	1 October Afternoon	2 October
5-9 October	5 October Morning	6 October Morning	7 October Morning	8 October Morning	9 October Morning
12-16 October	12 October Afternoon	13 October Afternoon	14 October Afternoon	15 October Afternoon	16 October Afternoon
19-23 October	19 October Morning and afternoon	20 October Morning	21 October Morning	22 October Morning	23 October Afternoon
26-30 October	26 October Afternoon	27 October Afternoon	28 October Afternoon	29 October Afternoon	30 October Morning
2-6 November	2 November Morning	3 November Morning	4 November	5 November	6 November

Note: The Committee will exercise flexibility in scheduling meetings during the last two weeks of the session, without prejudice to decisions to be taken by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

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General Assembly

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6 October 2009

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Sixty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 96
General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 5 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to forward herewith the Chairman's statement at the conclusion of the meeting of focal points of nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia, which was held on 27 and 28 April 2009 in Ulaanbaatar (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 96.

(*Signed*) Enkhtsetseg **Ochir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-54485 (E) 081009

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Annex to the letter dated 5 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Chairman's statement at the conclusion of the meeting of focal points of nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia

A meeting of focal points of nuclear-weapon-free zones of Latin America and the Caribbean (Tlatelolco Treaty), the South Pacific (Rarotonga Treaty), South-East Asia (Bangkok Treaty) and Central Asia, as well as of Mongolia, was held on 27 and 28 April 2009 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. It discussed the issues of implementation of the Tlatelolco declaration of 2005 as well as preparations for the follow-up Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia and for the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Following the consideration of those issues, the Chairman is making the following statement:

1. We reaffirm the validity of the Declaration of the first Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs), adopted on 28 April 2005 in Mexico.

2. We reaffirm that the existence of nuclear weapons and the possibility of their use constitute a threat to the entire humankind and that their use would have catastrophic consequences for it. Hence nuclear disarmament, total prohibition and the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons remain urgent tasks facing humankind. We support the United Nations Secretary-General's five-point proposal to revitalize the international disarmament agenda, which includes a call for negotiations on effective measures leading to nuclear disarmament.

3. We welcome the positive signs that are emerging to reduce further nuclear arsenals as well as the recent "surge" in various ideas and proposals to address the pending issues of nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as imperatives that humankind is facing today. These positive developments and trends taken together create a positive climate to pursue further the goals of a world free of nuclear weapons and of nuclear non-proliferation.

4. We recognize the importance of multilateralism and in particular the notable role played by the United Nations in the area of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and we reiterate our commitment to adopting measures to strengthen that role.

5. We reaffirm that the Non-Proliferation Treaty remains an essential instrument of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and reiterate the validity of the principles, obligations and rights contained therein, in particular in articles III, IV, VI and VII.

6. We are convinced that the establishment of internationally recognized NWFZs on the basis of agreements entered into freely among the States of the zone concerned promotes the goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Respect for such zones by nuclear-weapon and neighbouring States constitute an important nuclear disarmament commitment.

7. We reiterate our concern that though almost a decade has passed since the 2000 NPT Review Conference, uneven progress has been marked in implementing the agreed nuclear disarmament measures. Therefore we urge all States to comply with the obligations set forth in article VI of the NPT and elaborated further in the decisions of the Review Conference mentioned above.

8. We urge nuclear-weapon States to continue taking steps towards concluding an unconditional and legally binding universal treaty on security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States and to honour their commitments regarding security assurances until the treaty is concluded.

9. We welcome the entry into force of the Central Asian NWFZ Treaty on 21 March 2009, the first such zone in the northern hemisphere and covering an area where nuclear weapons were previously based. With more rigorous safeguards provisions, it will make an effective contribution to strengthening regional and global peace and security.

10. We are looking forward to the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, which would mark an important measure towards attaining the objective of global non-proliferation.

11. We urge nuclear-weapon States and any other States listed or mentioned in the relevant protocols to the treaties establishing NWFZs that have not yet signed or ratified the protocols to do so as soon as possible, and those that have made reservations or unilateral interpretations to modify or withdraw them.

12. We express full support for Mongolia's policy of institutionalizing its nuclear-weapon-free status. We welcome the start of the talks by Mongolia with its two neighbours to conclude the required legal instrument and express the hope that it will soon result in the conclusion of an international instrument institutionalizing the status.

13. We reiterate our support for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Middle East as well as North-East Asia, South Asia and Central Europe.

14. We reaffirm the importance of achieving the universality of the NPT and urge those States that are not parties thereto to accede to the Treaty without delay or conditions as non-nuclear-weapon States.

15. We reaffirm the commitments reflected in the NWFZ treaties to further promote and strengthen the zones and to cooperate in promoting ratifications, where appropriate, by all States that belong to an NWFZ as a contribution to strengthening confidence, the NPT regime and achieving nuclear disarmament.

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Sixty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 98 (a)
Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session: report of the Conference on Disarmament

Letter dated 6 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

As Austria currently holds the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament, I have the honour to forward herewith the text of a joint statement on the Conference by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the six presidencies of 2009, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Argentina, Australia and Austria, which was issued on 24 September 2009, on the occasion of the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1887 (2009) on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 98 (a).

(*Signed*) Thomas **Mayr-Harting**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-54974 (E) 121009

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Annex to the letter dated 6 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Joint statement on the Conference on Disarmament by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the six presidencies of 2009

New York, 24 September 2009

1. Bearing in mind their successive presidencies of the 2009 session of the Conference on Disarmament, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Argentina, Australia and Austria, participating in the General Assembly in New York, reaffirmed collectively, as well as in their national capacity, their commitment to the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and welcomed the adoption of its 2009 programme of work on 29 May 2009.

2. The six Ministers welcomed the positive momentum provided by a number of initiatives by States and their leaders and urged the Conference on Disarmament to move forward with an early commencement of substantive work in 2010.

3. In the context of the Security Council's initiative on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, highlighted by the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1887 (2009) on 24 September 2009, the Ministers welcomed in particular the Security Council's call upon the Conference on Disarmament to cooperate towards an early commencement of substantive work.

4. They emphasized that the Conference on Disarmament is of paramount importance and stressed that it should live up to the world's expectations, based on its historic achievements, such as the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

5. The Ministers pledged that they would remain fully engaged, inter alia, through consultations with all interested Member States.